

person who holds or has held at the date of this Order 1899 the office of midwife of a dispensary district or workhouse in Ireland.

II. Such person shall have reached the age of twenty-three years."

The hospitals recognised by the Local Government Board are as follows:—Rotunda Lying-in Hospital, Dublin; Coombe Lying-in Hospital, Dublin; National Lying-in Hospital, Holles Street, Dublin; the Maternity Hospital, Belfast; the Limerick Lying-in Hospital; the Belfast Lying-in Infirmary, Belfast; the Cork Maternity Hospital, Cork; the Cork Lying-in Infirmary, Cork; Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin.

As we last week reported, the proposal is not commending itself to Boards of Guardians. All those in the North-West have refused to adopt it, and many consider the scheme impracticable.

From the professional standpoint the scheme is equally to be condemned. Firstly, there is the dual authority of the Board of Guardians, and an unprofessional lay association, over the certified midwife. Secondly, there is the most insufficient salary assured the midwife of £1 a week, with bicycle and uniform allowance, a sum upon which it is impossible to provide adequate board, lodging, attendance, shoe leather, and personal necessities, and the further restriction that the midwife is to undertake no private practice, so that it is impossible for her to augment her minute salary in this way.

But the scheme stands condemned by the first condition, namely, that when not employed in midwifery the time of the midwife shall be at the disposal of the local committee of the Women's National Health Association, and that she shall carry on such work as it shall direct.

What qualifications have such a committee for organizing and controlling the work of a professional woman, such as a midwife? We wonder how many will in the first place understand the strain arising from the irregularity of a midwife's life, and that if she has been at a case in the night she should have rest in the day. In our experience it is a point which very few people realize; but if an extra effort is put forward at one time, and strain endured to tide over a crisis, there should be relaxation at another, or the human machine will inevitably break down. Therefore to combine the irregular work of midwifery under Boards of Guardians, with regular routine duties under another society is to court disaster.

It is stated that some plan for inspection is to be devised, but there is nothing to say it is

to be of a professional character, as organization and supervision of any class of professional workers always should be.

Again, if evidence be required that the Association concerned is out of touch with midwives, their difficulties and their needs, it is readily to hand in the estimation of the value of their services as sufficiently remunerated by a sum which a skilled cook would immediately refuse.

We hope that the lack of response from Boards of Guardians may be sufficient to cause the scheme to be abandoned, and we regret that any members of the medical profession should have commended it to their consideration.

THE NUTRITION OF THE INFANT.

A new edition (the fourth) of "The Nutrition of the Infant," by Dr. Ralph Vincent, Senior Physician to the Infants' Hospital, London, has just been published by Messrs. Baillière Tindall & Cox, 8, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C. Price 10s. 6d. The book must rank as a classic, and everyone concerned in the care of infants, more especially midwives and monthly nurses, should not only read, but study and assimilate its pages from cover to cover, and it should find an honoured place in all Nurses' Libraries. No one in this country has studied the whole question of infant nutrition more deeply than Dr. Vincent, and there is no one, therefore, whose views are to be received with deeper respect. The book is dedicated to Dr. Thomas Morgan Rotch, Professor of the Diseases of Children at Harvard University, and Physician to the Infants' Hospital, Boston, and the reason for this choice is to be found in the chapter on "Substitute Feeding."

"To Rotch of Boston we owe the institution of a method enabling the physician to precisely adapt the food of the infant to its peculiar requirements, and at the same time affording him every opportunity of judging the part played by the various constituents of the diet.

"Recognising the essentially unscientific character of the traditional methods he devoted his attention to the real factors of the problem which had been for so long neglected, with the object of arriving at a system by which a milk mixture could be prepared in the constitution of which the comparative importance of every essential element received due recognition. The great and lasting value of his work lies in the abolition of all didactic rules, in the provision of an instrument combining clinical elasticity with scientific precision. By the method which he devised, any desired milk mixture can be prescribed so as to contain the various constituents in any proportion required. If the prescribed mixture prove in any way unsatisfactory, it can be adjusted with the greatest delicacy and precision to the needs of the infant. Rotch dealt systematically with every phase of

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